Pollution by Irrigation Water

408. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that much of the chemical pollution emanates from agricultural water run offs;

(b) if so, whether Government have ever conducted any study on the effects of pollution from run-offs of irrigation water from agriculture lands; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) There is water pollution from the use of pesticides in agriculture.

(b) and (c) About 600 samples from the Ganga river have been tested during the last two years for the presence of fertilizers and pesticides. In the case of fertilizers that were tested for, the levels are within permissible limits. In regard to pesticides, the analysis shows that the presence of pesticides that were tested for, were usually above acceptable levels.

Proposal for Game Sanctuaries in Andhra Pradesh

409. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh has been neglected by Government in respect of wildlife projects;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for declaring any area in that State as Game Sanctuaries; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether some areas in that State have been identified for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The responsibility of setting up of wildlife sanctuaries vests with the State Government. The Wildlife Institute of India, in its report "PLANNING A PROTECTED AREA NETWORK IN INDIA" has recommended that the present network of one national park and 17 wildlife sanctuaries in Andhra Pradesh should be expanded to include 6 national parks and 25 wildlife sanctuaries, thus increasing the total area under the protected area network from 10174 sq. kms. to 13861 sq. kms. A copy of the Report has been sent to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for further necessary action.

Number of SC/ST IAS Officers

410. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Secretaries, Additional Secretaries, Joint Secretaries and Directors, separately, to the Government of India in I.A.S. Cadre and what is the number of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes officers among them;

(b) what steps Government are taking to give full representation to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes officers in the posts of Additional Secretaries, Joint Secretaries and Directors and since when; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no Scheduled Caste officer either in the screening committee, in the Assessment committee or in the appointments Cabinet Committee meant for the emplement or appointment of I.A.S. officers to the posts of Additional Secretaries, Joint Secretaries and Directors; if so, in what manner Government will ensure to safeguard the interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes officers in these higher level posts?